

DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education
The Cabinet Room

December 1, 2011
1:15 P.M.

Members Present: Joanne Christian, Samtra Devard, Stephanie DeWitt, Marilyn Dollard, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, Lori Hudson, Chris Kenton, David Kohan, Whitney Price, Shelley Rouser, Jacqueline Wisnauskas, and Kathleen Thomas.

Members Absent: Michael Casson, Wendy Murray, and Jill Lewandowski.

Others Present: Charlie Michels; PSB Executive Director, Paula Fontello; Deputy Attorney General, Rebecca Taber; Deputy Chief of Staff, Christopher Ruszkowski; RTTT Acting Chief Officer TLEU, Donna Mitchell; RTTT Deputy Officer TLEU Professional Development, Michelle Kriss; Secretary to PSB, Donna Johnson; State Board Executive Director, Deb Stevens; DSEA and Wayne Barton; Director of the Office of Teacher and Administrator Quality.

I. Opening

Call to Order: Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 1:25 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ms. Dollard and seconded by Dr. Rouser to approve the December 1, 2011 Agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of November 3, 2011: A motion was made by Mr. Kenton and seconded by Dr. Greaves to approve the PSB Minutes of November 3, 2011. With one abstention by from Ms. Wisnauskas, the motion carried.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels went to the Tatnall Building in Dover on October 18, 2011 with Mr. Ruszkowski and participated as a member of a review team for 2 RFP presentations for Teacher Preparation Programs. Two different programs presented their responses. Per RFP criteria the programs did not need to be affiliated with a regionally credited college or university A broad-based review

team looked at both programs and listened to the presentations. After considerable conversation and subsequent discussions at the DOE, neither program was approved to move forward.

- Mr. Michels said there are two new Graduate Record Exams (GREs). Regulation *1501 Issuance of Initial License* has allowed for certain GRE cut scores to be used in lieu of Praxis I. The revised GRE tests are graded on a different scale. Educational Testing Services (ETS) has provided a Concordance Table in order to be able to make comparisons between the previous GRE scores and the revised GRE scores. Mr. Michels spoke with Dr. Barton, Director of the Office of Teacher & Administrator Quality and Dr. Hodges, Associate Secretary for the College and Workforce Readiness Branch and they both agreed with the DE score comparison. The DOE will now accept these scores. No composite scores have been or will be accepted. The PSB will need to amend Regulation 1510 *Issuance of Initial License* upon the approval of HB 107, and adding the new revised GRE scores will be part of the amendments. Mr. Michels noted that ETS will need to update the Delaware Section on their website to reflect these changes. He will make the necessary contact.
- Mr. Michels has conversed with Dr. Marion Wolak, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development, and with Dr. Gregory Fulkerson, Education Associate for World Languages and International Education regarding American Sign Language (ASL) certification programs that might be approved by both Boards. Approved programs could then be used to meet some certification criteria for the ASL endorsement for the World Language Standard Certificate. The PSB is encouraged to be proactive and approve a few Programs in order to be ready for teachers requesting the use of these for ASL certification.

IV. **DOE Report**

Ms. Thomas introduced Rebecca Taber, Deputy Chief of Staff and Acting RTTT Chief Officer for the Delivery Unit (DU). Ms. Taber gave an overview of the Race To The Top (RTTT) DU work. Ms. Taber said the goal of the Delivery Unit is to work with the Districts, Charters, and with all of the units within the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) to insure that the expectations and achievement of goals of RTTT are being met in a timely fashion. She stated that keeping close track of achievement goals is critical, for if Local Education Agencies (LEAs) drift away from cited targets, the collective partners need to step back, refine the work and move forward. Ms. Taber referred the PSB members to the handout in their folders and said that there are four standard questions that get asked in reviews within both the DOE and the LEAs: Question #1 – Are we doing what we said we would? (Project and LEA deliverables). Ms. Taber said this is asking if we are meeting the deliverables that were in the DE RTTT plan and in the District plan. Question #2 – Are we doing what we said we would do well? (Project and LEA qualitative assessments). Question #3 – Are the things we’re doing having the expected impact? (Project and LEA measures). She said this pertains to those measures of success at the DOE and the District level. Question #4 – Are we on track? (State goals). She said we measure this by our State goals to find out if specific initiatives are having an overall positive impact. Ms. Taber gave a brief description of District review routines and DOE Routines. She said District Routines consist of Progress Reviews,

Performance Evaluations, and Chiefs' Workshops. DOE Routines consist of Branch/Unit Check-ins with the DU, Branch/Unit Check-ins with Secretary Lowery, and Leadership Team Stocktaking Sessions. Ms. Taber also discussed some accomplishments and challenges. Conversation turned toward Professional Learning Communities (PLCs): the variety of scheduling across the State, training and general reactions noted by PSB Member educators. Ms. Taber noted a level of frustration by some PSB Members and responded to questions.

V. Action Items

A. 1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards

Mr. Michels said the PSB has been looking at this regulation over several months. The amended regulation reflects the new set of standards recently adopted by Learning Forward. He referred the PSB to the handout in their folder and shared the latest draft of the amended regulation for the Board's review. Mr. Michels indicated that there have been several iterations of this regulation. He has attempted to add language within the regulation to insure that people reading this regulation would know that the Standards listed are but a summary of those published by Learning Forward and that to fully implement the standards one would have to refer to the entire Learning Forward publication. Mr. Michels then asked the PSB if they would be comfortable adopting these standards as opposed to the previous set we currently have adopted. The PSB consensus was to proceed with a draft to incorporate the new Learning Forward Professional Learning Standards to be the new Professional Development Standards for all Delaware educators. Subsequent to PSB conversation, Mr. Michels recommended that no action be taken and that he will work with Ms. Fontello to incorporate the references and have the regulation ready by the January 5 PSB meeting for a Vote to Publish.

VI. Discussion

A. 1505 Standard Certificate

Mr. Michels said this regulation was approved by the State Board of Education during their November 17, 2011 meeting and was published on December 1, 2011 in the DE Register of Regulations. Mr. Michels noticed some formatting changes in the published version, but after careful review, the end result of the Final copy was identical to that which was approved by both Boards. He said when this regulation is before the PSB in January for Final Approval, the Board will see this slightly different version with the formatting changes incorporated. Mr. Michels had not received any written comments to date. The PSB did not express any concerns.

B. 1506 Emergency Certificate

Mr. Michels said this regulation was approved by the State Board of Education to Publish during their November 17, 2011 meeting and was published on December 1, 2011 in the DE Register of Regulations. Mr. Michels again noticed some formatting changes in the published version, but after careful review, the end result of the Final copy was identical to that which was approved by both Boards. Mr. Michels noted that he expected more in-depth conversations with the State Board of Education in December regarding the

significant changes within this regulation. Mr. Michels will update the PSB on the conversation with the State Board. The PSB did not express any concerns.

C. 1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards

Mr. Michels said the proposed amendments to regulation 1597 reflects a new set of standards published by the Council of Chief State School Officers' (CCSSO) Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC). The Board had an opportunity during the November 3, 2011 PSB meeting to review the amended draft. Mr. Michels asked the Board for feedback on the amended draft of this regulation. Previously, Mr. Michels had compared the InTASC standards with the components in the Delaware Performance Appraisal System's (DPAS) components. It appears that all of the components in DPAS II for Teachers are included in the new InTASC Standards. Mr. Michels asked the PSB if they would like him to continue to work on this and move forward for possible approval in the future. The PSB agreed to the plan.

D. 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License

Mr. Michels said the DOE is reviewing DE Professional Development Standards in combination with RTTT initiatives and the variety of ways educators can accrue clock hours in order to renew their Continuing License. He shared with the Board the conversation he had with Ms. Thomas, Dr. Hodges and Dr. Barton on the number of PD hours required for License renewal in light of the number of clock hours potentially accrued via PLCs. Mr. Michels suggested that upon the potential approval of the amended *1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards*, that there needs to be a critical review of all current Renewal Options. After that review, conversations around the current number of clock hours required for License renewal will need to take place.

E. 1573 Teacher of Students with Autism or Severe Disabilities

Mr. Michels said he received a minimum of feedback and concerns regarding current amended iteration. Points of concern forwarded were regarding proposed definitions and venues and levels of required courses. Mr. Michels thought that perhaps the regulation should not attempt to define 'Autism' and Severe Disabilities'. A rich conversation followed, during which a consensus suggested the possibility of separating the two targeted areas into two separate Standard Certificates. Mr. Michels will continue to work on this regulation with DOE staff and the Statewide Director of the Delaware Autism Program.

VII. Presentation

A. Delaware Leadership Project (DLP) Quarterly Report

Mr. Michels introduced Mr. Ruszkowski who presented the December 1, 2011 Delaware Leadership Project (DLP) Quarterly Report. He handed the Report to the PSB members and then summarized the Report. Mr. Ruszkowski discussed the progress of Cohort 1's Residency Year, Recruitment and Selection for Cohort 2, and upcoming work and events. The PSB had no questions or comments following Mr. Ruszkowski's presentation.

VIII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

The Committee had not met.

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation

The Committee had not met.

IX. Other

None.

X. Public Comment

None.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Mr. Kohan to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.